

**Education and Workforce Fund - \$20,000,000 ARPA eligible projects and
\$55,000,000 non-ARPA eligible projects**

Goal 3: Align and balance workforce, economic development, and educational opportunities; support opportunities to upskill and/or retrain Wyoming workers.

Project/Program Overview.

1. Project/Program Narrative – These two funding opportunities allow the WIP and various workforce entities to apply for funding relative to higher education and workforce projects that align with Goal 3. The applications will be considered by a committee, or committees designated to determine both the ARPA eligibility or non-eligibility, and to consider the metrics and the potential return on investment that the project may provide to Wyoming as determined by the various parameters identified by Governor Gordon.

a. This opportunity may fund WIP Phase II proposals, “Wyoming’s Tomorrow Scholarship Program” and ARPA eligible workforce projects.

i. The WIP is a multi-year initiative that leverages the collective efforts of the state’s community colleges and university to drive Wyoming’s economic and workforce development goals. WIP’s purpose is to improve Wyoming’s economic prosperity through the coordinated efforts of the state’s institutions of higher education (IHE) that link community goals and strengths to the state’s strategy for economic development and diversification. WIP aims to grow the economy through *entrepreneurship, research, computing education, and workforce development* by collaborating with industry and governmental partners to spark innovation, economic growth, and prosperity.

Funding for the WIP Phase I proposals were approved in the amount of \$24,170,000 for projects with an immediate need. Those projects are underway, and the WIP Phase II proposals will build on these early projects and successes.

ii. The “Wyoming’s Tomorrow Scholarship Program,” is a need-based state aid grant for adult learners to achieve a credential and use the grants beyond the first level credential, or for higher education, limited to equivalent to 4 academic semesters. Currently, 51.6% of Wyoming adults have a post-secondary credential. The state’s attainment council’s goal is to increase this to 67% by 2025.

iii. Current proposals for workforce projects include messaging campaigns to identify services currently offered throughout Wyoming, funds to serve individuals who are not currently served through existing funding sources, and more targeted workforce programs for healthcare and child care industries. More specifically, the current proposals include:

- Wind River Job Corps – An outreach campaign to Wyoming residents, many of whom are unaware of the opportunities that exist for their families.
- Talent Transition – outreach campaign to bring awareness around growing Wyoming industries for job-seekers.

- Career Center Development/Relaunch - This project includes an outreach campaign to make Wyoming citizens aware of the broad array of resources available to them at Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Workforce Centers.
- Targeted Healthcare Workforce Program Proposal - This program would grow the healthcare workforce to meet the current healthcare needs in the state.
- Targeted Early Childhood Workforce Program - This initiative will increase and broaden funding for training opportunities in early childhood career pathways. In addition, because child care centers experience chronic turnover, the program will provide for sign-on and retention bonuses for child care staff, along with opportunities for scholarships for students seeking careers in child care.
- Workforce Development Training Fund Apprenticeship Program Expansion - This initiative would expand pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeship programs significantly in Wyoming with a more aligned approach. It will support the pipeline of workers by connecting high school youth with opportunities that allow them to gain post-secondary credentials while still in high school. Provide upskilling, training, soft skills, etc to overlooked or otherwise not WIOA eligible populations - This initiative would upskill two critical yet often overlooked populations: those just above the poverty line and ex-offenders.

Wyoming's workforce has been shrinking. For instance, Wyoming's total civilian labor force dropped from 295,063 to 292,401 between November 2020 and November 2021. Wyoming's workforce will need to grow significantly and upskill through training, certifications and degrees, over the next several years to capitalize on many large projects and new economic development opportunities coming to the state.

b. The application process for the projects will include providing information about: the project's long-term impact or a return on investment; whether it replenishes a budget cut; a plan for sustainability which does not add to the State's ongoing financial responsibilities; supporting stimulus over relief; where possible, leveraging dollars through matching or buy-in programs; creating capacity for the future; and the citizens it will benefit.

c. The ARPA eligible projects will have to show that they are responding to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19. The relevant Treasury FAQs are: 2.8, 2.11, 2.16, and 2.17.

2. Project/Program Goals, including Deliverables and Objectives as well as an explanation of how to define the success of the program and funding.

The deliverables and Objectives will be further developed as the proposals are refined. The success metrics will vary with the project, and with the development of the proposal. The benefit to the application process is that it provides the opportunity to vet the success metrics to the Committee, and to further refine those metrics as necessary. See also, Project/Program Snapshot, Attached.

3. Availability and/or eligibility for other funding for project/program.

At this time, no other funding is available for these projects. However, some funding could become available through EDA grants, the infrastructure bill, or other federally funded grants or awards.

4. Revenue or Return on Investment.

See, Project/Program Snapshot, Attached

5. Proposed Budget for FY2022, FY2023, FY2024 - if applicable.

See, Project/Program Snapshot, Attached

6. Timeline.

Each project will have its own timeline.

Project/Program Snapshot

Goal: Align and balance workforce, economic development, and educational opportunities; support opportunities to upskill and/or retrain Wyoming workers

Project/Program Core Purpose
<p>Education and Workforce Fund. This project would fund WIP Phase II proposals, “Wyoming’s Tomorrow Scholarship Program” and ARPA eligible workforce projects. An application process will be developed for ARPA eligible projects and non-ARPA eligible projects. The applications will be reviewed by a committee from higher education, the private sector, Workforce Services, and the Wyoming Business Council.</p> <p>The WIP Phase II proposals focus on three primary areas to help drive the State’s recovery out of the economic and health impacts it has faced since late-2019. These areas are significant workforce and economic development programming efforts, efforts to facilitate WIP institution collaboration and large-scale collaborative efforts that improve institutional productivity and outcomes.</p> <p>A launch of the Joint Education Committee sponsored “Wyoming’s Tomorrow Scholarship Program,” which is a need-based state aid grant for adult learners to achieve a credential could be included in this fund.</p> <p>In tandem with the higher education proposals, this project would allow decision-makers to consider options to fund all or part of seven workforce-specific proposals, which came from the Wind River Job Corps, the Wyoming Workforce Development Council and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.</p>

Resources: What is needed for this project/program?				
	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Cost		\$75,000,000		
Staffing		Application process administration will require staff from the Governor’s Office, Higher Education, DWS and the WBC. Additional staffing will be required but vary based on approved projects.		
Program Cost Notes				
List major expenditure areas:				

Activities: What are the major activities performed through this project/program?

- Developing an application process
- Awarding funding

Program Metrics: How will you track success?

For the non-ARPA eligible funds, an application process will be developed and selections will be made using projected metrics tied to the programs to include new business starts, existing business growth/retention, business recruitment, new jobs added, average wage increases, research activity, enrollment and graduate retention, post-secondary attainment rates, access to capital and other return on investment types of measures.

For the ARPA eligible proposals, an application process will be developed to include capturing information to ensure the ARPA eligibility. In addition, the application process will include information about the urgency of the problem being solved, and project-specific success metrics.

Proposed Outputs

Metric	SFY2022 Target	SFY 2022	SFY2023	SFY2024
Will be project specific	Phase 1 of the WIP initiative is focused primarily on initiative organization, and early, immediate focus on activities intended to launch the WIP's collaborative nature and immediate economic impact.		Phase 2 will be a far larger effort of WIP that will focus on three primary areas to help drive the state's recovery out of the economic and health impacts it has faced since late 2019. These areas include significant workforce development programming efforts, efforts that make it easier for the WIP institutions to	

			collaborate and work together, and large-scale collaborative efforts that improve institutional productivity and outcomes.	
Proposed Outcomes				
Metric	SFY2022 Target	SFY 2022	SFY2023	SFY2024
Will be project specific				